

August 25, 1999 Public Hearing

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**CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM  
DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

**Salinas, California**

Good evening. My name is Dan Masnada. I am the Executive Director of the Central Coast Water Authority. CCWA is responsible for treating and delivering water from the State Water Project to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. We are the State water contractor that has most recently come on line; initial project deliveries commenced two years ago this month.

From 1994 to 1997 the California Department of Water Resources and CCWA constructed the Coastal Branch of the State Water Project -- a pipeline and ancillary facilities extending over 140 miles from northwestern Kern County through San Luis Obispo County into Santa Barbara County. As many of you know, Santa Barbara County is considered to be the birthplace of the national environmental movement that resulted from the January 1969 offshore oil spill. Consequently, the environmental aspects of the Coastal Branch project were heavily scrutinized by the local public as well as regional, state and federal regulatory agencies. By designing and building its facilities in a manner that treated environmental protection with the same priority given technical and financial issues, CCWA was able to complete its facilities under budget and on time -- a "win-win" result for the environment and our ratepayers. Without that commitment the project would either not have been built or would have been significantly delayed at great cost -- certainly in financial terms and possibly in environmental terms.

CCWA recognizes the importance of meeting CALFED's ecological and environmental goals. We support achieving those goals. However, the proposed CALFED program to fix the Delta is not a win-win solution. At a time when California's water supply and delivery system has not been significantly expanded or improved for over 20 years, the CALFED program offers no credible commitment to invest in much-needed facilities to improve our water supply or water quality.

It provides iron-clad guarantees for fish and the environment while sidestepping or delaying decisions to develop new water storage and conveyance facilities needed to meet existing needs – let alone the needs of another 15 million Californians in the next 20 years. Urban water suppliers do not believe this program will provide them necessary water quality improvements in a timely manner. Instead they would be forced to invest millions of dollars themselves in costly new water treatment facilities to meet safe drinking water standards.

CALFED was formed with the intent of returning control of our water resources to the state of California. The current proposal would put federal regulators in control of the tap, permanently affecting the economy and jobs throughout the state.

Granted, the CALFED program has made progress in a number of key areas, such as water use efficiency and development of additional groundwater storage. However, CALFED must address the following goals relating to an increased and more reliable water supply of good quality:

- CALFED must establish water supply goals of 200,000 to 400,000 acre-feet during the first seven years of this program and aggressively pursue their realization.
- CALFED must expedite the planning and implementation of the South Delta Improvements, which hold the greatest potential for increasing water supplies during the first stage of the program. Water supply benefits from this program must be equitably balanced among agricultural, environmental and urban uses.
- CALFED must develop regulatory and operational guarantees of actual benefits to water users to maintain their commitment to the program.
- CALFED must develop a comprehensive timetable for meeting required improvements in drinking water quality, and set interim benchmarks to provide a method of gauging success of the program.
- CALFED must clearly set out the conditions that will trigger a full assessment of an isolated conveyance facility, the timeline for such an assessment, and a clear process for making the decision on whether to proceed with such a facility.

- CALFED must clearly identify defined and quantifiable benefits in order to impose appropriate water user fees to implement the program.

CCWA recognizes that achieving total and complete consensus by agricultural, environmental and urban interests regarding the CALFED program is next to impossible. Nevertheless, based on its own experiences and successes, CCWA believes a program that is equitable and balanced among the needs of cities, farms and the environment is not only possible but absolutely mandatory. It's what some people are now calling "governance in the middle." It's what we at CCWA call a win-win solution. Without a balanced solution CALFED's legacy will not be one that ends California's water wars but one that simply represents a temporary truce as we head down the road leading to economic, environmental and social Armageddon.

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